

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (currently amended) A pin adapted for use in a threaded joint for steel pipes, which comprises a the pin and a box each having a contact surface including a threaded portion and an unthreaded metal contact portion and which has a lubricating coating on the contact surface ~~of at least one of the pin and the box~~, characterized in that the lubricating coating comprises an upper lubricant layer which is in solid form at 40°C and appears as an outer surface for the contact surface of the pin, and a lower lubricant layer which is in liquid form in the temperature range of above 0°C and below 40°C, the lower lubricant layer disposed between the contact surface and the upper lubricant layer and an upper lubricant layer appearing on the surface of the lubricating coating which is in solid form at 40°C.

2. (currently amended) A threaded joint for steel pipes which comprises a pin and a box each having a contact surface including a threaded portion and an unthreaded metal contact portion and which has a lubricating coating on the contact surface of at least one of the pin and the box, characterized in that the lubricating coating is semi-solid or solid at 40°C and is formed of a mixture consisting essentially of a lubricating oil which is liquid in the temperature range of above 0°C and below 40°C and a wax which is solid at 40°C, wherein the mixture has been heated to at least the temperature at which the wax is liquefied to dissolve the wax and the lubricating oil in each other.

3. (original) A threaded joint for steel pipes as recited in claim 2, wherein the mixture further includes a solid additive.

4. (original) A threaded joint for steel pipes as recited in claim 3, wherein the solid additive is one or more substances selected from a resin powder and a fatty acid metal salt.

5. canceled

6. (currently amended) A pin ~~threaded joint for steel pipes~~ as recited in claim 1, wherein the contact surface of at least one of the pin and the box is subjected to preliminary surface treatment.

7. canceled

8. (currently amended) A pin ~~threaded joint for steel pipes~~ as recited in claim 6, wherein the preliminary surface treatment is chemical conversion treatment with a phosphate or an oxalate, and wherein the lubricating coating contains a fatty acid metal salt as a solid additive.

9. (previously presented) A threaded joint for steel pipes as recited in claim 4, wherein the fatty acid metal salt is one or more substances selected from alkali metal salts and alkaline earth metal salts of stearic acid or oleic acid.

10. (currently amended) A pin ~~threaded joint for steel pipes~~ as recited in claim 1, wherein the lubricant layer in liquid form comprises one or more materials selected from mineral oils, synthetic ester oils, animal or vegetable oils, and basic metal salts of an organic acid.

11. (previously presented) A threaded joint for steel pipes as recited in claim 3, wherein the mixture has been heated to at least the temperature at which the wax is liquefied to dissolve the wax and the lubricating oil in each other.

12. canceled

13. (previously presented) A threaded joint for steel pipes as recited in claim 2, wherein the contact surface of at least one of the pin and the box is subjected to preliminary surface treatment.

14. (currently amended) A pin ~~threaded joint for steel pipes~~ as recited in claim 8, wherein the fatty acid metal salt is one or more substances selected from alkali metal salts and alkaline earth metal salts of stearic acid or oleic acid.

15. (previously presented) A threaded joint for steel pipes as recited in claim 2, wherein the lubricating oil comprises one or more materials selected from mineral oils, synthetic ester oils, animal or vegetable oils, and basic metal salts of an organic acid.

16. (new) A box adapted for use in a threaded joint for steel pipes, the box having a contact surface including a threaded portion and an unthreaded metal contact portion and which has a lubricating coating on the contact surface, characterized in that the lubricating coating comprises an upper lubricant layer which is in solid form at 40°C and appears as an outer surface for the contact surface of the box, and a lower lubricant layer which is in liquid form in the temperature range of above 0°C and below 40°C, the lower lubricant layer disposed between the contact surface and the upper lubricant layer.

17. (new) A box as recited in claim 16, wherein the contact surface is subjected to preliminary surface treatment.

18. (new) A box as recited in claim 17, wherein the preliminary surface treatment is chemical conversion treatment with a phosphate or an oxalate, and wherein the lubricating coating contains a fatty acid metal salt as a solid additive.

19. (new) A box as recited in claim 18, wherein the fatty acid metal salt is one or more substances selected from alkali metal salts and alkaline earth metal salts of stearic acid or oleic acid.